target, the principal strategy will be to set up production levels at international cost and prices, market promotion and expert thrust, international quality of products, rationalisation of tariff and procedures, strengthening the manpower base to give growth to the Electronic and Information Technlogy.

Andhra Pradesh proposal for "Electronics Governance"

2488. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal for clearance of Project Report on Electronic Governance at a cost of Rs. 122 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have examined this proposal;

(c) what assistance would be extended to State Governments, like Andhra Pradesh who wish to develop electronics Governance; and

(d) the steps proposed to clear the proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government and by when the same would be cleared for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a proposal regarding the emerging paradigm of electronic Government being ushered by Information Technology and spelling out some of the areas for undertaking pilot projects, inter net applications and other IT applications which would help in providing a more convenient and citizen friendly interface with government. These have been discussed with the State Government officials and further action has been initiated based on these discussions.

New Passport Office at Tirupathi

2489. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for opening a new Passport Office at Tirupati in Chittoor District in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the major points made out by the representationists and the action taken thereon; and

(c) by Which date the new Passport Office is likely to be established at Tirupathi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All the representations highlighted the difficulties faced by the people of southern districts of Andhra Pradesh due to long distance they have to cover to visit Hyderabad for getting passports. A new Passport Office has recently been opened at Visakhapatnam in A.P. for the convenience of the residents of that area. The number of applications received from Ttrupathi and its adjoining districts during 1996 was only 28121 which is far below the number of 50000 applications in a year recommended by the Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs for opening a new Passport Office in any State/region. As such there is no proposal to open another Pasaport Office in Tirupathi at present

Securing Support for Indian stand on CTBT

2490. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Questions 190 given to the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the recent Critical Nuclear Test by the United States has vindicated India's stand and apprehensions